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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Simon Foote, et al.

Examiner: A. Chakrabarti

Serial No.: 09/424,629

Art Unit: 1634

Filed: March 13, 2000

Docket: 13203

For: NUCLEIC ACID DIAGNOSTICS BASED

Dated: February 14, 2003

ON MASS SPECTROMETRY OR MASS

SEPARATION AND BASE SPECIFIC CLEAVAGE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

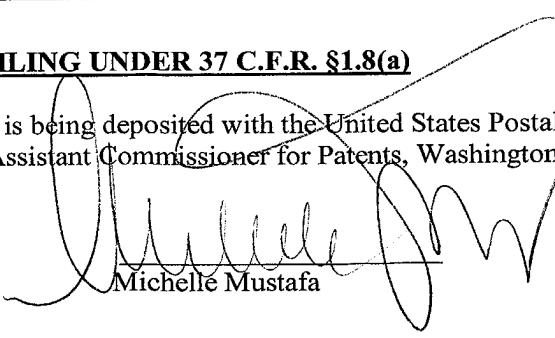
Sir:

In response to the Final Action dated March 20, 2002 and the Advisory Action dated October 1, 2002, and in connection with the filing of the Request for Continued Examination, kindly enter the following preliminary amendment in the above-identified case.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 14, 2003.

Dated: February 14, 2003



Michelle Mustafa